

SKETCHES OF NAHANT



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RELAY HOUSE DANCING PAVILION



RELAY AUTO STATION



RELAY HOUSE

# Sketches of Nahant

SHOWING MANY POINTS  
OF INTEREST



FOUR MILES OUT TO SEA IN SUNSHINE  
AND IN STORM

A PLACE FOR REST OR  
RECREATION



SKETCHES  
OF A FEW OF THE LEADING  
MEN OF NAHANT

NAHANT, MASS.  
1911

COMPILED AT RELAY HOUSE, BASS POINT

Leading Hotel in Town, Succeeding  
Old Nahant Hotel

BY EUGENE H. BRANN



PRINTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
ATLANTIC PRINTING COMPANY  
179 SOUTH ST., BOSTON



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# SKETCHES *of* NAHANT

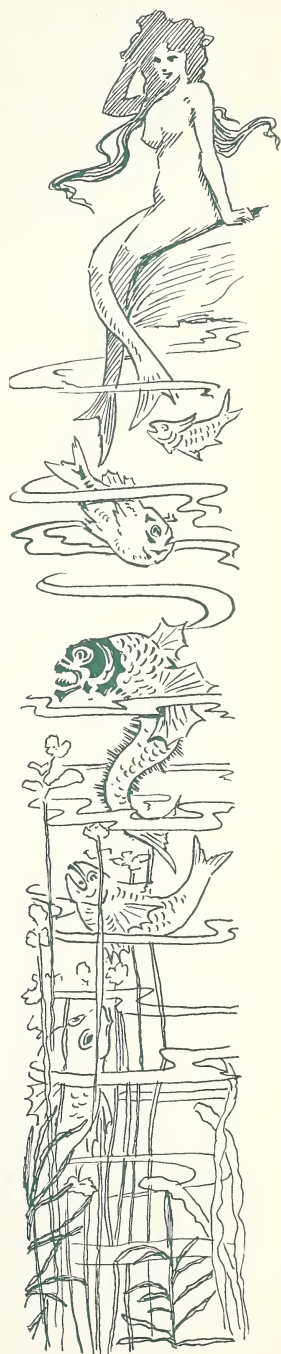
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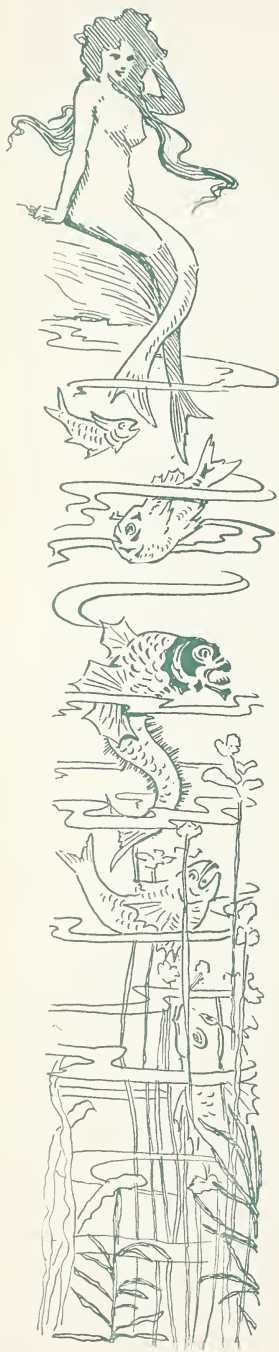
Stretching from Lynn beach in a southerly direction is a roadway just wide enough for a trolley line, a bridle path, and a beautiful driveway. This winds along one of the finest beaches in the entire world, and so continues until it reaches far out into the very depths of the great Atlantic ocean, and at this point is the extremity of the promontory of Nahant, or at least, that section better known as Greater Nahant to distinguish it from Little Nahant which has been passed on the way, and is a smaller peninsula forming part of the town. Massachusetts Bay is on either side of this narrow roadway, the entire distance, and when any section of the promontory is arrived at, no matter where, there are the mighty billows, which in sunshine break upon the rocks and beaches with a regulated harmony most attractive, and in storm heave and pound in awful majesty.

Originally this was an island, although where the road now runs there was a narrow sand bar, which, when the tide was out, was mostly exposed, leaving a beach easy to travel, if not indeed, delightful for a pleasant walk; but when the tides were in, or a storm raged, then there was water all around this land, and it has been known to continue thus for several days at a time. The road was built on this sand bar, and although once washed away, has been successfully maintained ever since it has been reconstructed.

In the early days the promontory was used by Lynn and neighboring towns for grazing after it had been cleared by militia of wolves, bears, and other wild animals.

When first discovered it was densely covered with woods, but in a short time all of





this was cleared away to benefit Boston and other towns nearby; then it became practically a barren waste, and so continued until a much later period, when one of its citizens devoted the greater part of his efforts, and particular attention to the planting and development of trees, shrubs, flowers, and a general improvement of the soil. His efforts have made quite a different appearance in the peninsula, and it is at present, as a whole, one of the beauty spots of the country and even of the world. Much credit for this is due to Frederick Tudor of whom an interesting chapter might be written.

Its natural grandeur is most attractive, but when on a hot Summer day the mercury climbs as though intent on flowing through the top of the glass, Nahant is as cool as the proverbial cucumber, for the ocean breezes blow continually and drive the heat away. On a day like this the sea is calm, and on its bosom may be seen the sails of many vessels bound to ports unknown, or the great steamers headed for the Eastern Continent; and all the cope above is of the deepest blue, incomparable, even though poets may rave about other shores and other skies in distant lands, and claim they have the best.

When the sea grows angry here is a chance to gaze upon an awful sight with knowledge of perfect safety. There are doubtless thousands who would like to see a storm at sea such as has been described by those who have trembled in fearful agony as they felt the troubled ocean roll and thunder all about them, threatening destruction to the ship, and death at any moment.

On the rugged rocks of old Nahant where the seas, from a time when the science of man can never tell, have pounded with their fiercest venom and have been rolled back again, and





Relay House Garage



yet a million times again; from these rocks far out to sea, like a vessel tempest tossed; here can be viewed the wondrous agony of the ocean tearing at itself, and all things else in sight, seeking what may be devoured and swallowed up into its bowels there to remain forever, things belonging to the land and which have no place in the bosom of the waters.

On these rocks such view may be obtained, but if the fury of the storm seems greater than one may care to stand, a few steps back is all that is required to relieve the nerves, and forget the laving waters.

Strange as it may appear, there is never a hot day in Nahant, and during the winter time the weather here is always much warmer than at near-by points on the mainland.

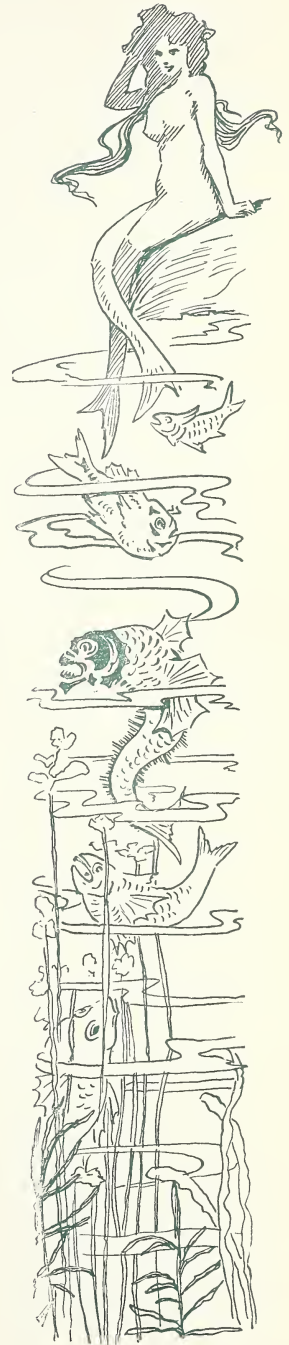
As previously suggested, the road from Lynn beach to Nahant is very fine, and developed to such condition that an easy drive along its way is altogether most attractive; one feature that compells attention is the bending tree, known as the "Half Way Tree," which has stood there, and looked the very same for something like a half a century; this is the only tree on the long beach, and this, together with its individual attractiveness marks it as a point of interest to every passer by.

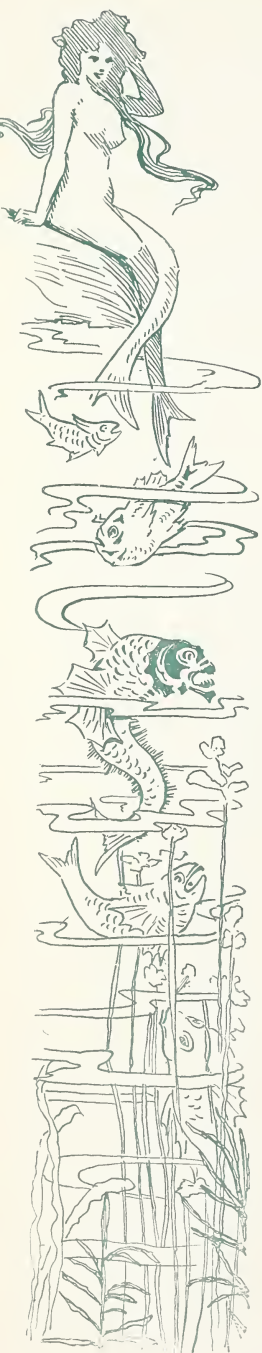
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## The Town Incorporated

Nahant was incorporated as a town in 1853, and from the first has been most successful; its territory comprises less than six hundred acres. The length of Greater Nahant is about two miles while in width it is scarcely more than one-half a mile, the circumference of this portion of the peninsula is about six and a half miles.

Most of the distance around the promon-





tory is steep, precipitous, craggy. In some places the cliffs raise above the level of the sea to a height of more than sixty feet, and the rocks exposed are of varying colors; as many as six being easily recognized. This rocky substance is broken and uneven as might be expected, forming grottos, caverns and ravines. Part of the promontory is low, and in such there are places for landing on the beach, and at some of these points wharfs have been built for the accommodation of the steamers that visit here, or ply their trade regularly.

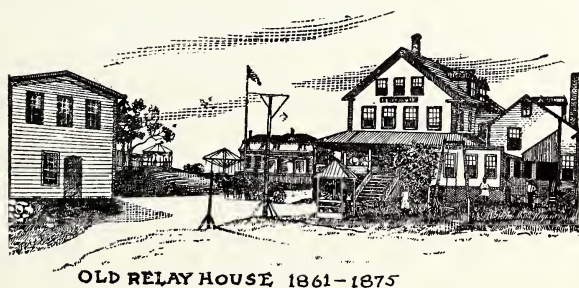
The first steamboats were run between Boston and Nahant in 1817, they were continued again in 1818, then they were discontinued until 1820 when they were started once again to continue indefinitely, or grow in numbers and better accommodations.

The Nahant Hotel was started at East Point about 1819, it was built of stone at a cost of \$60,000 and Thomas H. Perkins and Edward H. Robbins were greatly interested in it. In 1852 Paron Stevens with some associates came into possession of this hotel, and completely reconstructed it at a cost of more than \$100,000. This was the largest hotel in the country at that time, and was patronized by the very best people in the land, and many from abroad.

Without a shadow of a doubt Nahant was the first watering place in the country, first as a matter of fact, and first in the class of people who came here for a summer visit. Besides this, there were a number of persons who valued the peninsula as a most healthy resort, and many of these made it their permanent abode.

Among those who resided here, or came as annual guests were, in part, such distinguished people as George Ticknor, the historian who summered here in 1823; Daniel

Webster, Choate, Bancroft, William Story, Robert C. Winthrop, Nathaniel P. Willis, Charles Sumner, Longfellow, Morley, Appleton, Holmes, Whittier, George William Curtis, the Lowells, Crowinshields, Bryants, the Lees, Abbotts, Amos Lawrence, Amorys, Winthrops, Cabots, Warrens, Hammonds, Peabodys, Appletons, Codmans, Curtises, Guilds, Grants, Adamases, Grays, Sears, Phillips, Inches, Chadwicks, Otises, Russells, and many others well known at home and abroad. Prof. Felton, afterwards president of Harvard, was at one time a resident of Nahant as was also Prof.

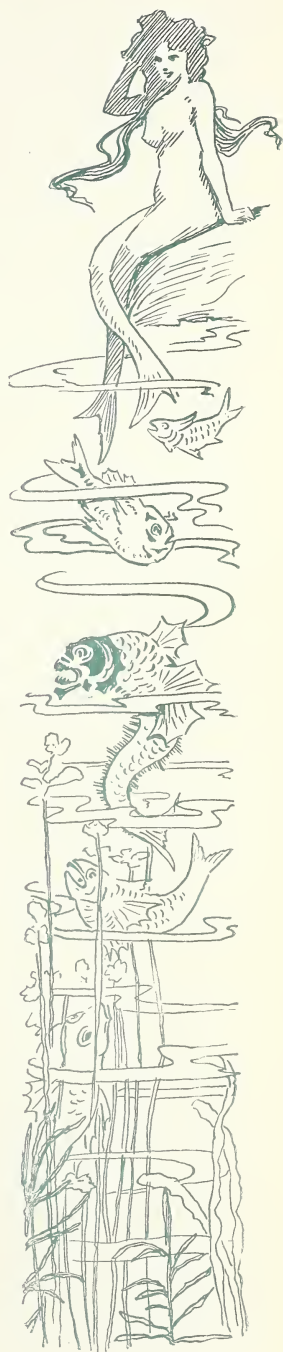


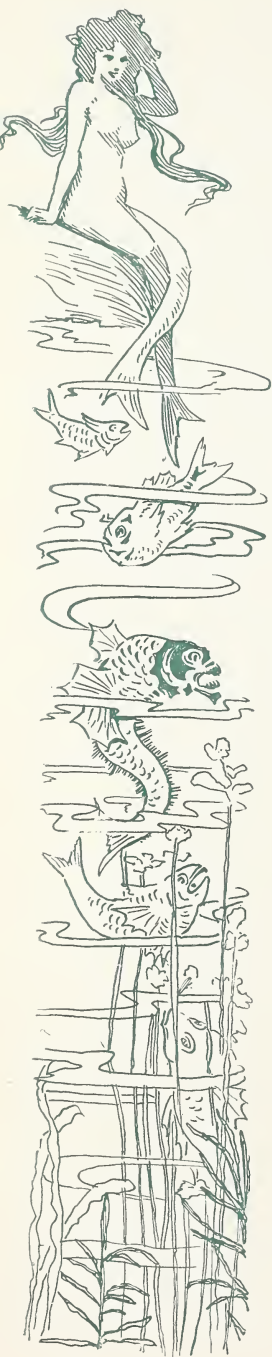
Agassiz, and both of these noted men married daughters of Mrs. Thomas Cary, who was herself the daughter of Hon. T. H. Perkins who founded the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. Gen. John C. Fremont was also a resident here previous to the Civil War, and was ever enthusiastic in his praise of the entire peninsula.

Whittier, Longfellow and Holmes wrote many poems here, some of them of a local nature while others attracted the attention of the entire literary world, and it is assured that Longfellow was inspired greatly, and wrote most of his "Hiawatha" while on the promontory.

Little Nahant, at its greatest length, is

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one hundred and forty rods, and is half that distance across; it contains some forty acres, and is elevated at the highest point, eighty feet above the sea. Like the larger portion of the peninsula, it is practically all massive rock, with, on the Southern side, two deep gorges known as Great and Little Furnace. Opening into the sea is Mary's Grotto, which is a large room containing five hundred and seventy-six square feet, and twenty in height. "The Wolf's Cave" is on the North side.

This little peninsula is connected with Nahant proper by a splendid beach more than a mile in length, known as Short beach, and this, together with the other points of interest at Little Nahant, are visited by thousands of people during the summer months.

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### Many Interesting Places

Among the points of interest commencing here and traveling around the Northern coast of the peninsula to the East, South and West, are, "John's Peril," Maolis Garden; which is now largely the estate of Mr. S. E. Guild; Rock Temple, still standing, and originally a part of the garden; Agassiz's house, Spouting Horn, where, when the sea is rough, the water rushes in and, being forced by the immensity and power behind, thunders high into air making a most awe-inspiring spectacle. Upham's beach, Sanders' Ledge, The Forty Steps beach, Lodge's beach, where the Baltic came ashore in a heavy sea a few years ago loaded with sugar, and dashed herself to pieces on the rugged rocks where no ship would have a single chance to live or weather out a gale.

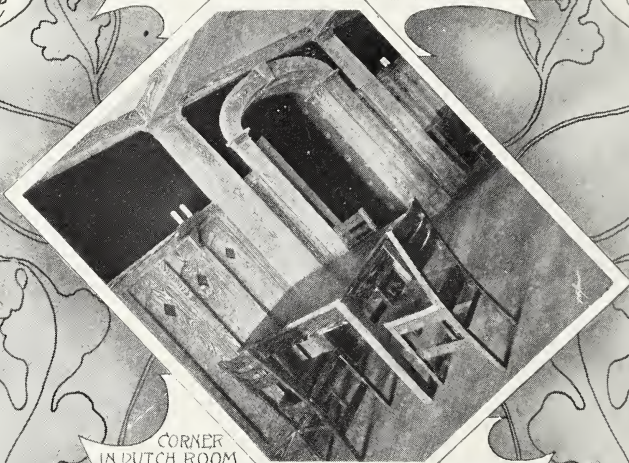
The crew of the Baltic saved themselves, and were careful to bring ashore with them their cat, parrot and dog; they conveniently



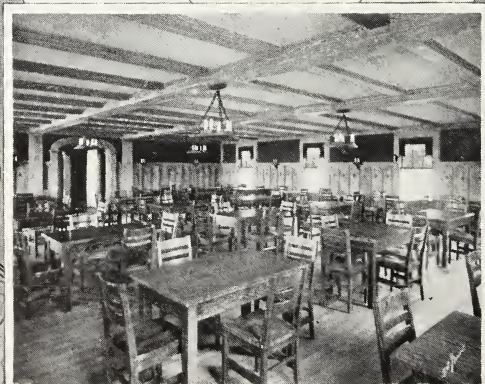




FIREPLACE IN DUTCH ROOM RELAY HOUSE



CORNER  
IN DUTCH ROOM



DUTCH ROOM RELAY HOUSE



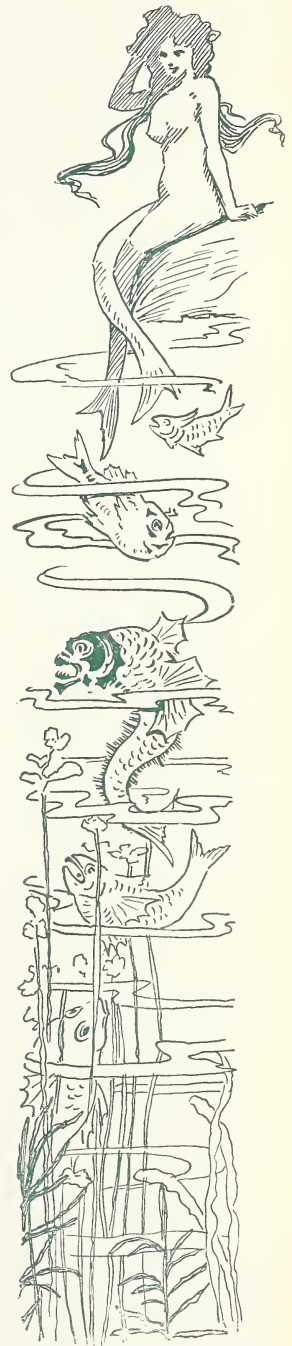
took themselves to the beautiful residence of Senator Lodge who, with his family were away; entered the house and remained till the next morning when other conveniences were arranged for them in their distress.

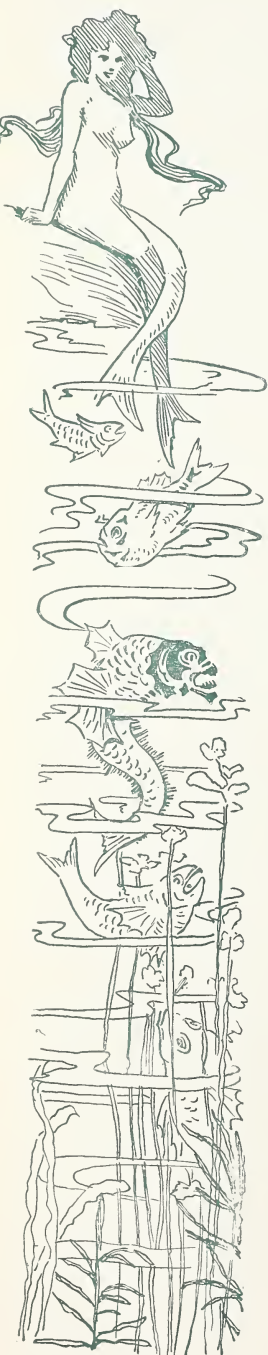
James's beach is next, then Sears'. Shagg Rocks are little islands handy to the shore, Pea Island another, its name coming from the wild pea that grows upon it.

Swallows' cave runs under a cliff a distance of something like seventy-five feet back from the beach, so that a person entering at that point and continuing his travels as far as he can go, soon finds himself high above the sea with as solid a foundation under him as there exists anywhere in the world. The entrance, however, is generally from the cliff, and at that point is eight feet in height and ten feet wide. It increases in height and width until the center is reached when it narrows somewhat the remainder of the distance. Soon after entry is made the passage develops to a height of fully twenty feet, and here it is nearly fifteen feet from side to side; it can be traveled only when the tide is low—about half time—at high tide the water rushes in and takes absolute possession, to the exclusion of all things else.

One of the attractions near Swallows' cave is "Irene's Grotto," this is a high arch which leads to a room back in the rock; it is very interesting, most attractive, and one of the points of interest on the peninsula which the visitor never fails to take advantage of seeing. In a measure, it is somewhat like to Swallows' cave but considerably smaller.

Other points of interest are, Joe beach, Clark's point, Boat House beach. This was so named by the old fishermen who used to house their boats and traps at this place; it is now





used by the Humane society as their headquarters. Then comes the Gen. John C. Fremont estate where the old pathfinder passed his summers prior to the Civil War.

Then Nipper Stage on Tudor wharf, and the Nahant Dory Club at the same place, Cove beach, Pond beach, Bailey's hill, Trimountain beach, the old Trimountain House, Bass Point, and then the Relay House, which is really the first and last point of interest on the promontory, no matter which way the traveler takes the rounds.

At, or near East Point, there are many interesting features, not least among which are Castle Rock, Pulpit Rock, Natural Bridge, The Gorge where the sea thunders in dashing and lashing itself into a furious state, and into foam that recedes far back, like a milky substance into the ocean from whence it came. But these must be seen if justice to their grandeur shall be done, and that they may fully be appreciated; they can be reached by a narrow way at the entrance to the right of the driveway which leads to the grand estate of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge.

Egg Rock, three-quarters of a mile to the East of Nahant, and where the government maintains a light, rises suddenly from the ocean eighty-six feet in height. This, too, should be seen, for mid the surroundings, the harmony seems complete, with the rock so handy by.

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### National Government Interested

Bailey's hill, and a long strip of land from the water back to Flash Road, was taken recently by the Federal government for strategic purposes, and soon after, some forty houses were removed from the land, and the entire

reservation fenced in. The only house permitted to remain was the Trimountain, and there near the beach, backed by this stately hill in the old hotel, lives a solitary tenant, Sylvester Brown, who claims that he is no longer a citizen of Nahant, but of the United States; for he dwells only on government property and by permission, although once proprietor himself of the house in which he lives, and where he used to do a thriving business in this old stand.

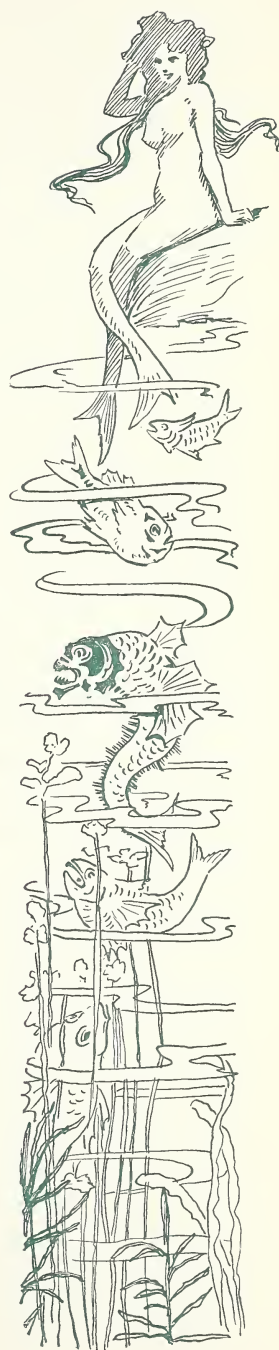
From East Point, on any clear night, the following government lights may be plainly



**View From Relay House**

seen: Boston light, the Graves, Egg Rock, Bakers' Island, Marblehead, Gloucester; and besides all of these, except Egg Rock, may also be seen from Bass Point, Minots, and Long Island lights.

Nahant has always been a great headquarters for yachting, and in this there has been intense interest since as far back as 1834. Gen. Paine, who lived here at the stone cottage of the Bryant family near Swallows' cave, always brought with him his elegant yachts, among some of them being the Mayflower and the Puritan, both of which defended success-





fully the America's cup in the international races, winning the applause of the entire nation, love and respect from the people, and the admiration of the whole world. It was the "Alice," which was the first small craft that ever crossed the ocean, and she sailed from Nahant in 1866; her owner was Thomas Appleton, and Charles Longfellow, son of the poet, was the captain who directed her safely to Cowes nineteen days later. He was received with the greatest acclaim by royalty, as well as by the entire people of England.

During the summer months some of the finest yachts afloat are always in the waters of Nahant gliding back and forth between this point and Marblehead; the best waters in the world for yacht racing.

As a health resort Nahant is easily one of the finest places to be found anywhere, for besides absolutely pure air, sanitary conditions are perfect, and a complete sewer system is connected with every house on the peninsula. Besides this the town receives the Metropolitan water guaranteed by the State of Massachusetts as practically and almost absolutely pure.

Those who have made this their home through summer and winter, live to a ripe old age, and seem to be young and healthy even to the last.

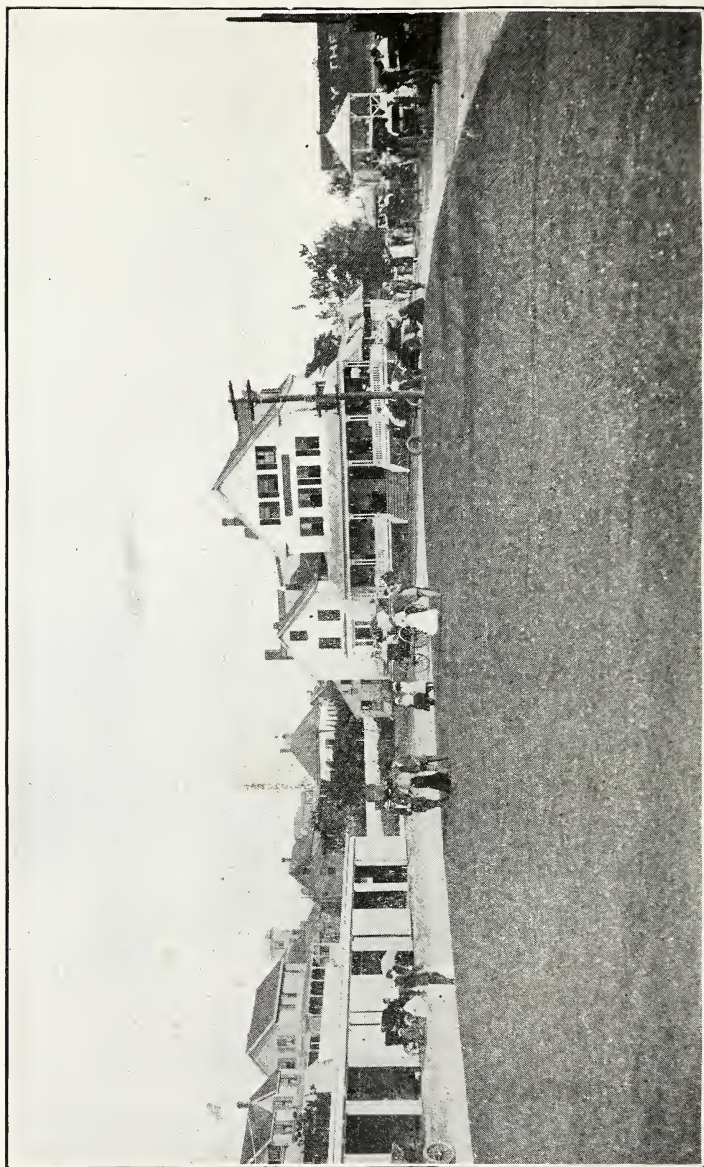
At the Short beach the government established, and has maintained since September 13, 1900, a life saving station, and this has been of great assistance to ships in distress, and oftentimes to individuals.

The mere mention of this seems to be sufficient to warrant favorable comment without further consideration.

Besides splendid schools, which are a credit to the town, there is a library here founded in 1818 by William Woods, who was







Relay House Grounds



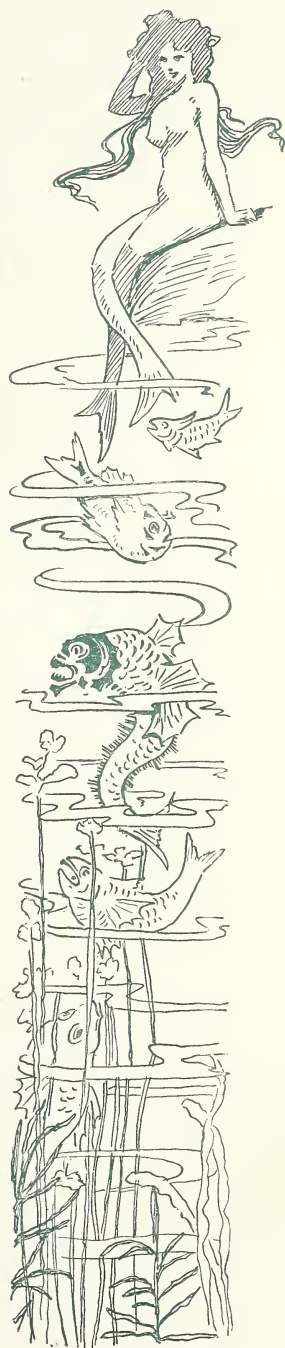
also very closely connected with the early history of the first library in New York city. It will be seen from this that Nahant has one of the first founded libraries in the country, and when it is considered that the library building was erected at a cost of \$60,000 and contains 20,000 volumes, both together worth more than \$100,000, the town, in this respect, is unusually well equipped.

There are churches here also for all denominations, for in 1832 a Tuscan chapel was erected for summer visitors, and clergymen of all denominations are welcome to hold service in this church. The Independent Methodist church was erected in 1851, and in it services are held regularly. St. Thomas' Catholic church was erected in 1872, but the parish was not established until April 5, 1902, when Rev. Francis P. Hannawin was appointed the first pastor.

## A Very Healthy Place

During the year of 1910 there were twenty-three deaths in the town of Nahant, and of this number three were between 70 and 80 years of age, one was 69, five were infants ranging from no stated age up to eight months; one from burns, one drowning, one cirrhosis of the liver, one cancer of the stomach, one child from pulmonary tuberculosis, another child from acute appendicitis, and two mature persons from myocarditis.

From this it will be seen that there is nothing indicative of an unhealthy state existing on the promontory; but on the contrary, everything suggests that here is a place where health naturally exists, and that the people of Nahant usually live to a ripe old age without





much danger of being taken away, except from natural causes incident to old age, for these statistics show that, barring infants doomed to die prematurely plus two accidents, the average death in the town during the year stated measured a span of nearly sixty-three years.

The precautions taken by the town with a view to health are such, that there has never been a contagious disease here unless introduced from other places since the sewer and Metropolitan water system have been installed.

The record of the past year issued by the health department, shows that all money spent by the town is for preventatives, and in this, appropriations are generous. The money thus raised goes entirely for removal of offal, and a continuation of the sewer department or whatever else may have to do with the health of the community.

The medical supervisor of the schools, Dr. Lawrence F. Cusick, has evidently attended to his duties in a manner which might be valuable to communities much larger than this locality. In a most comprehensive and erudite way, in his annual report, using language easy of understanding, he points out to parents the necessity of caring for the health of those placed in their charge, laying particular stress on the condition of the ear, the eye, and the nose in its relation to the adenoids. His gentle reminder that soap and water are valuable as assistants toward a proper education is carefully, yet positively stated, and his whole report is well worthy to be read by every citizen, not alone of this, but of every community, it being entirely shorn of ambiguity, complexed medical phrases, or language beyond the average reader.

## Development of Lobsters

As a matter of information, which will be of great interest to the people of Nahant, as well as others, it appears with certainty that lobsters were first used as an article of food, at the old Relay House during the time when Nathan Moore was proprietor, and long before this food had been developed to the splendid proportions of the present time.

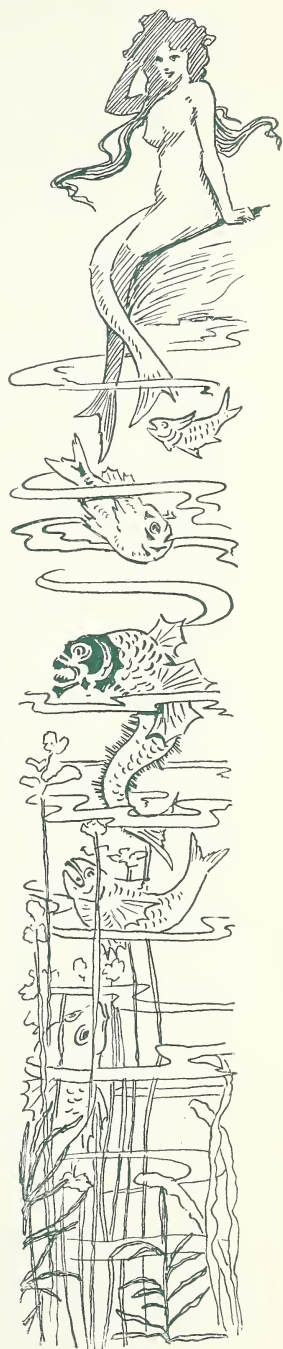
Not only is this a fact, but it is further true that the first fried live lobster was produced in the same house, and at the time when Mr. Moore was serving his famous fish dinners.



**Relay House Pier**

It is claimed, and universally admitted, that the best lobsters in the world are found in Massachusetts Bay, and that their flavor is entirely better than those secured elsewhere.

In early days the lobster was boiled by the people along the North Shore, and in this state eaten, but the value of the lobster as an article of food for the general public, was not known until certain natives of Nahant introduced them into the Boston and New York markets, and this doubtless, followed the frying of the delicious sea food, soon after the proprietor of the Relay House had developed their value as fried fish.





For years after the introduction of the fried live lobster at the Relay House, it remained a mystery how it was possible to fry them unless they were first boiled, and many of the leading hotel men from large and exclusive centers, came here and tried to solve the problem.

It is said that several returned to their respective cities convinced that it was an impossibility to fry a lobster unless it was first put to death by boiling.

In the course of time the secret was out, and then followed the broiled lobster, and the lobster in every form in which it is served at present, wholesome and delicious.

But this should be kept in mind; while lobsters were eaten by the people along the shore, there was no market for them, and they were of little or no commercial value until a market was found, which, as it appears, followed the frying of the lobster after it had been developed in the Relay House.

From the first there has been especial attention paid to the development of fish dinners at this hotel, and under the several managements since its start, this policy has been continued; but the most noticeable success ever attained has been under the present administration, when fish dinners are served the year around, because of a public demand extending from Boston to Portland on the North, and New York and Washington on the South.

Truly, if the Relay House had never existed, it is more than likely that the lobster in all its delicacy might not have been heard of up to the present, or to say the least, many years would have doubtless passed before this food could have been brought to the attention of the people as it is today, a delicacy, lacking in which, the world would have suffered a loss difficult to supply.







NAHANT LIFE SAVING STATION



STEAMER  
GENERAL  
LINCOLN

LOOKING  
TOWARD  
EGG ROCK

CLIFFS  
AT  
NAHANT



ROCK SCENE, AT NAHANT



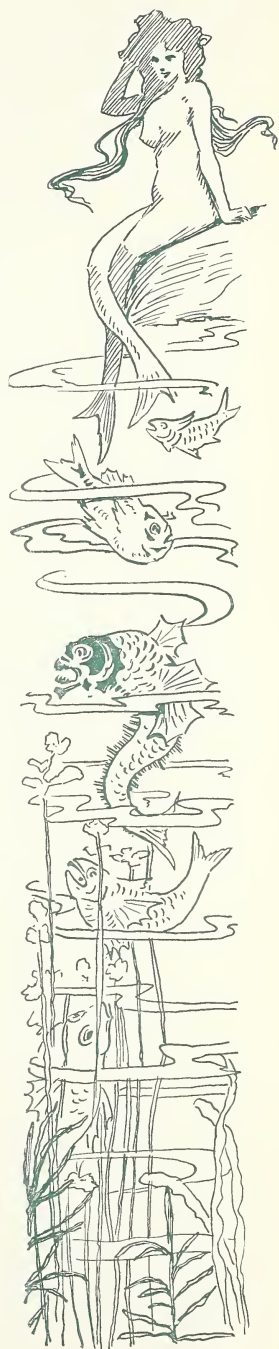
## Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge

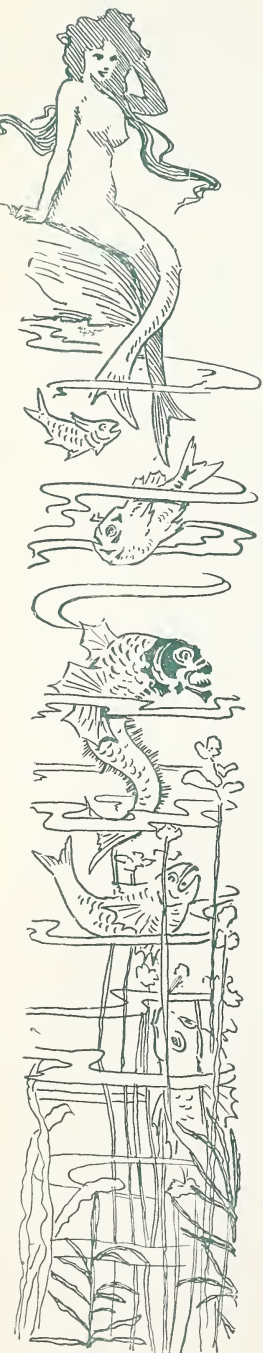
The personal and public history of Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge is so well known here, as well as throughout the country, if not the entire world, that a consideration of it at this time could hardly do him justice.

In the halls of legislation, in the direction of the affairs of the state and nation, he has taken so prominent a part for such a long time that his name has come to be a household word. History, and that alone, can ever do justice to him who has been not only a scholar, but a master with giant mind whose strong and steady hand, guided by purely patriotic motives, held many complexed questions back until such time as careful judgment indicated the proper course to pursue, or with extraordinary strength and vigor materially assisted in the advancement and adoption of measures best calculated to be of benefit to his country.

Present party strife may possibly seem to deny him justice; but be assured that this scion of wealth, who might have adopted the easy reckless life, and live content in luxury without a care for the welfare of his country or its people, will develop such strength again that his traducers will measure but to their proper standard, and then the glory rightly belonging to him, because of his efforts for the common good shall be recognized, and his fame be even greater than otherwise it ever might have been. When his epitaph shall be written and future generations know him as he is, his career will illuminate and will inspire fathers to direct their sons to it for emulation.

As a citizen of Nahant he is known by all, and he in turn is well acquainted with every one of his fellow-townpeople, all of whom have the highest respect for him and glory in the success he has attained.





At the annual town meeting in March, although a Senator at Washington, he leaves the urgent cares of State, the mighty questions of the nation, to return home in order that he may satisfy the wish of his fellow-citizens and act as the moderator of the town meeting, in which he takes the deepest interest. This may not be a single instance of the kind, but if there be another the secret has been well kept.

### Judge Joseph T. Wilson

The town of Nahant is entirely free from debt, and besides this has a surplus in the treasury which is likely to be increased to a very large extent in the near future.

The men who have administered the affairs of the town from the beginning seem to have had an eye single to the success and prosperity of the community, and in this they have been so efficient that, although this is but a small township, it has many of the advantages of the fully developed city. Besides its perfect sewer system, and Metropolitan water already referred to, it is connected with the mainland by an electric railway unusually well equipped, finely managed, and nicely calculated to serve the people. It is independent of all other lines, which indicates shrewd calculation and courage on the part of those who were willing to undertake the great expense in building and operating it; but the Nahant and Lynn trolley line has been, and doubtless will continue to be, a success from a financial point of view, as it has been a success in accommodating the people by connecting them with Lynn, and from there with any place wherever they desire to go.

The town officials have invariably recognized the value of this means of transportation,

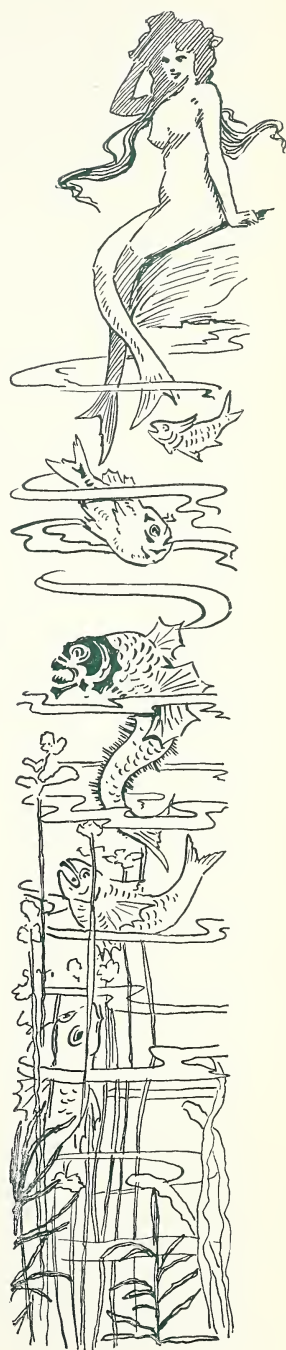
and in all instances have dealt justly by the railroad, at the same time watching carefully the interests of the public.

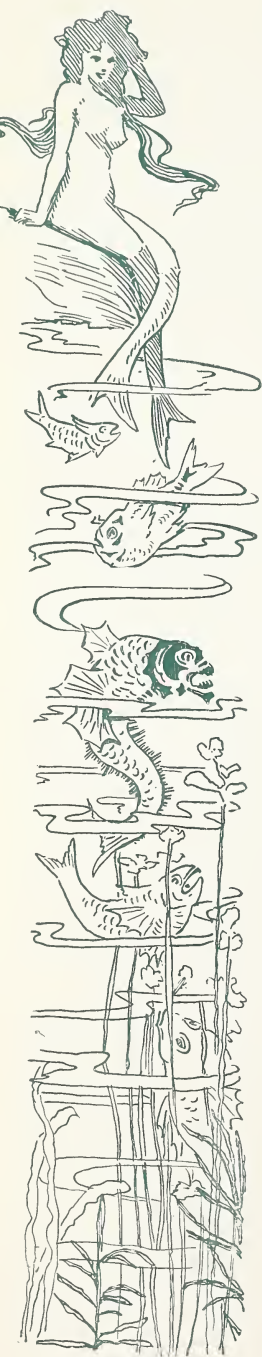
This naturally leads to the consideration of some of the prominent men of the township, and among these there are, perhaps, none more deserving of special mention than the local judge, Joseph T. Wilson, Esq., who has served as a magistrate ever since his first appointment in 1876 by Governor Alexander H. Rice, an appointment he has again just received from the present executive of the commonwealth.

As a matter of fact Judge Wilson has served longer than any other judge in the State in this capacity, and he takes pride in the fact that he has never sent but one man to the grand jury against whom there had not been found a true bill, and the one against whom a bill was not returned, was the first he had ever sent up. It is said of him by members of the legal profession that few men not possessed of a legal training are so well equipped as he for this particular business.

Aside from the justiceship mentioned the squire is one of the most prominent residential builders in the country, and in his extensive business he has built many of the fine residences in Beverly Farms, nearly all of the best residences in Nahant during the past forty years, and among those of note throughout the country he erected the elegant H. C. Frick mansion at Prides Crossing, and another for E. C. Swift, well known in connection with the great Beef Trust. It is a fair estimate that the J. T. Wilson firm does an annual business of nearly a million dollars.

In 1870 he was elected to the school board and served as chairman of that committee for twenty years; he was annually elected moder-





ator of the town meeting for twenty-six years, was a trustee of the public library for twenty-five years, has been a member of the boards of selectmen, assessors, and board of health for thirty years without a break, and with the exception of one year was chairman of these boards during his incumbency.

Strange as it may appear, the judge has been before the people for election more than a hundred times, yet he has never suffered defeat, and has never solicited a vote in favor of his candidacy, a record which is likely unequalled anywhere in the country, or even perhaps in the whole world.

Early in life he became attached to Henry Cabot Lodge, and these two men have been close friends ever since. It is a matter of record that Mr. Wilson nominated the Senator the first time he was a candidate for office. That was when he sought an election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In this campaign Mr. Lodge was the only successful candidate on his party ticket, all of his running mates being defeated. Mr. Wilson was indefatigable in his efforts for his friend, and it is more than likely that much of the success attending was due to his labors.

When it is considered that Senator Lodge has been a great factor in the shaping of legislation in state and nation since that time, who can doubt but that some of his splendid efforts were due, at least in part, to the encouragement of the friend of his youth, and his loyal friend and supporter today, Judge Joseph T. Wilson of Nahant.

Mr. Wilson is a 33d degree Mason, and has been a member of the fraternity for the past 44 years. He came to Nahant from the home of his birth, Kittery, Maine, where he was born on the 29th day of July, 1836, arriv-



ing here in 1868. That same year he returned to his home town and married the young lady of his choice, Miss Sophlia A. Wilson, who, although of the same name, was no relative whatever; and this happy couple have had three children, one son and two daughters, all of whom are living; the son, Fred A. Wilson, is a member of the J. T. Wilson firm, prominent in town affairs, and an official, besides being a director of the Essex Trust bank in the city of Lynn. His two daughters are married, one being Mrs. David Demarest of Lynn, and the other Mrs. Henry P. Richmond, residing at Chestnut Hill.

At present the judge holds no town office, having resigned as the result of an attack of the grip three years ago, when he concluded to take a vacation in the South and where he has gone, with Mrs. Wilson, each year since. His resignation from the various offices held, was a great disappointment to his fellow-townsmen, who doubtless would have been glad to continue him as one of the administrators of Nahant as long as he saw fit to be a candidate.

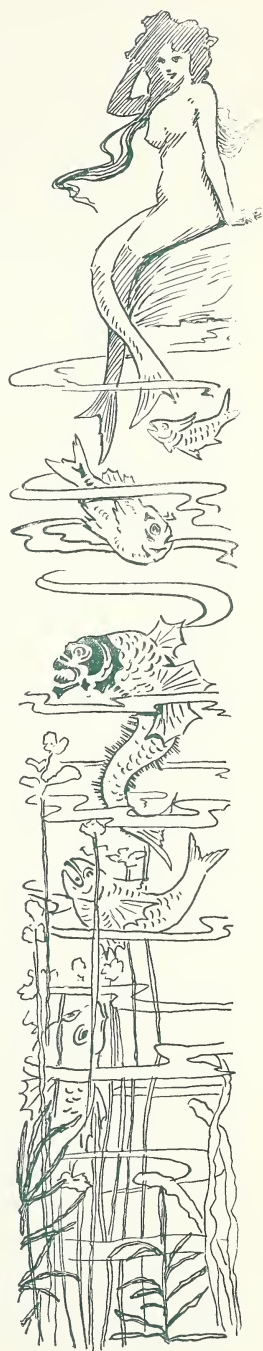
## A Few Leading Citizens

### Efficient and Praiseworthy

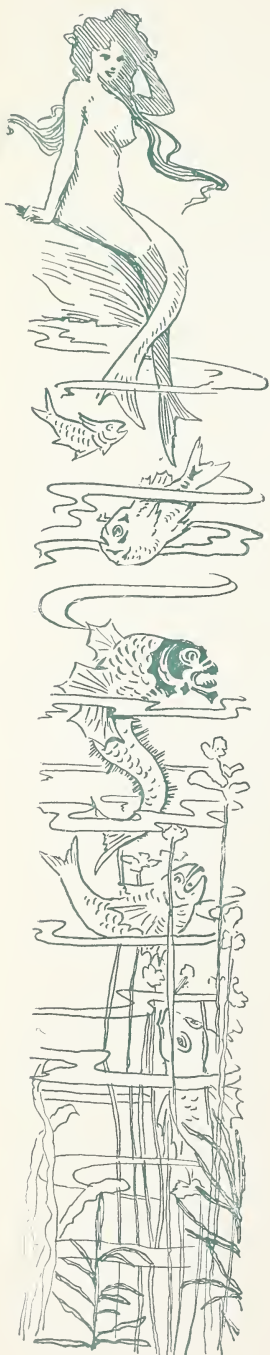
Charles Cabot Johnson, the present treasurer and collector for the town, is a young man well and favorably known, he has been a representative in the General Court, and it is more than likely that there are future honors yet in store for him.

### Closely Identified

Although former Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., was born in Boston, and holds residence there, his identification with Nahant is such that he is generally regarded as a son of this







rugged promontory, and no summer season goes by without he is here for rejuvenation mentally as well as physically. On public occasions he is prominent among those who take an interesting part, and his development into a character of national importance has been watched by the people here with pride and confidence in his ability, the same as would apply to any other townsman.

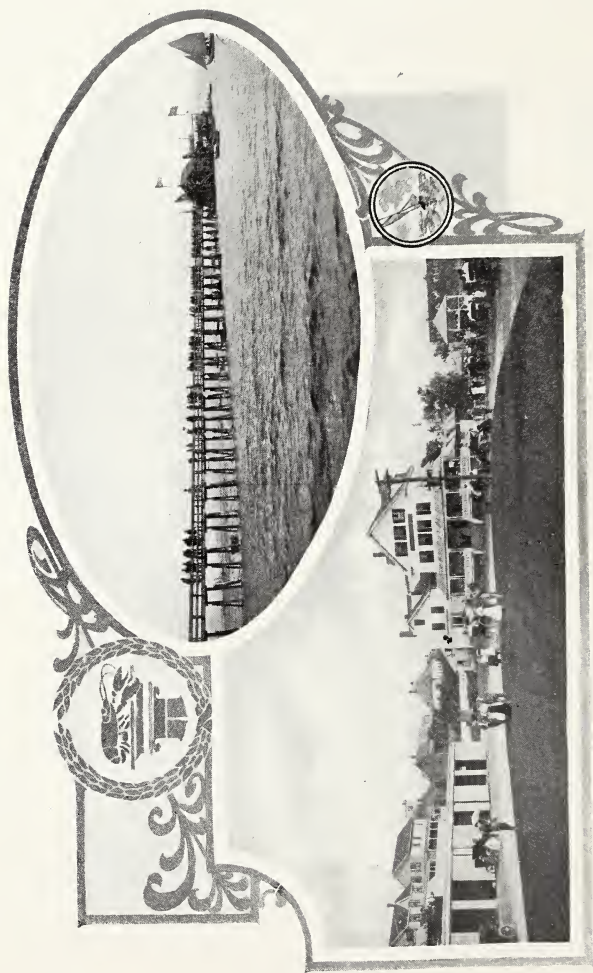
#### **Attended First Town Meeting**

Edmond B. Johnson, one of the citizens who participated in the first town meeting after Nahant was incorporated into a separate town, and who subsequently acted as treasurer for eighteen years, is still here hale and hearty at the ripe age of 78. He still serves his town as the official undertaker thereof. He is the only one who took part in the first town meeting and who is still residing in the old home.

Mr. Johnson is entirely possessed of his faculties, always interested in the welfare of the community where he was born and has lived during his entire life; tells interesting stories of the early days of Nahant and the first town meeting, and a very pleasing one of his brother Walter who was elected moderator of the first gathering of the citizens under their own charter in 1853.

His memory takes him back far into the past history of the town, and he tells with vivid recollection many things which to the historian are of the greatest importance. Nahant should have the benefit of all this during his robust health, for when he is gone—and may that time be far into the future—there will be none able to recount valuable matter which is ever present in his mind today, and which, if lost, can never be regained.





Showing Boat Landing

### The Common Carrier

Among the citizenship of Nahant lives Francis B. Crocker, loved and respected by all who know him, and he is known by every one in town besides hundreds of people in Lynn, and all along the route to Boston. He is a giant in stature, gentle as a child, stands six feet one, and weighs about 240 pounds.

Mr. Crocker is especially distinguished in that he supplies the people of this promontory with anything they wish, being the common carrier for freight between Nahant and the mainland. For years he has conducted this business through sunshine and storm, and has carried everything during his long service from a darning needle up to the most bulky and unwieldy article that is possible to suggest.

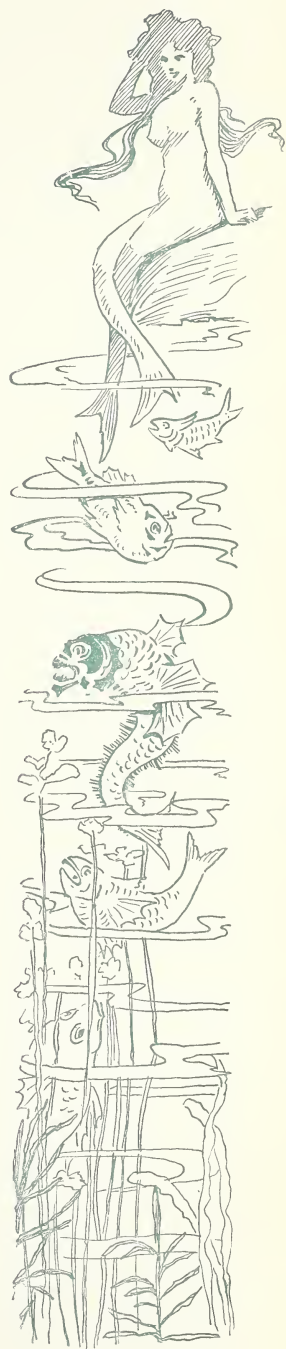
Mr. Crocker is the chief of the fire department, a position he has held for the past twenty-four years, and besides this he has been the chairman of the Republican town committee for eighteen years.

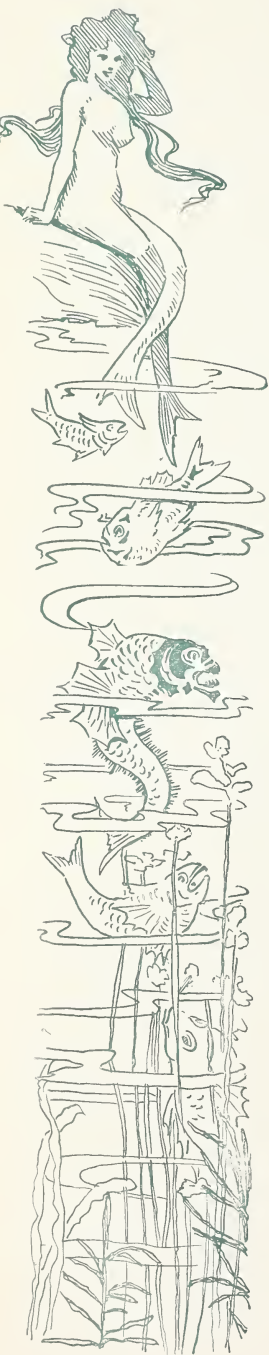
Although he has arrived at the age of sixty, he seems as fresh as many men of half that age, and he attributes his youth to the healthy climate in which he lives as well as to out-of-door exercise his business necessitates.

### Has Seen Changes

Sylvester Brown, an old time hotel man, and the proprietor of the Trimountain House from 1874 up to the time when the United States Government took Bailey's hill and a large section of property for the purpose of fortifications along this coast, is a descendant of Timothy Brown, who settled in Lynn about 1630.

For a long time Mr. Brown was very successful in administrating the affairs at the





Trimountain, and is living now in the old hotel quite comfortable and snug.

Mr. Brown was born February, 1834, on Nahant street, Lynn. When he came here his health was not good, but he soon began to pick up, and has been a healthy and rugged man from that time up to the present.

### **The Nahant Hotel**

Among the early developments along the hotel line the Nahant House was by far the most elegant. It was built in 1819, by Hon. Thomas H. Perkins and Hon. Edward H. Robbins, at a cost of \$60,000, and was opened for business in the summer of 1821. This house was erected on East Point, where the residences of Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge and that of George Abbot James now stands; it commanded a fine view, and was the headquarters of the first families of the land.

After a few seasons the property passed into the hands of several capitalists who spent \$100,000 on the structure, bringing it up to date in every particular. Subsequently Paran Stevens came into possession of it, and during his time it excelled in every line that of any hotel at a watering place in the country, just as Nahant, as a watering place excelled all others where wealth centered; statesmen came, poets favored, cultured people took their rest, and even the mighty brains of nations flocked for inspiration.

This grand hotel was finally destroyed by fire on the night of September 12, 1861, and later John E. Lodge acquired ownership of the property and caused extensive improvements to be made. After his death the entire estate went to his children as stated and is still retained by them.

At other times, and since, there have been



hotels on the peninsula, but none have in any particular approached the old Nahant Hotel, except the present Relay House, the only hotel to remain open every day throughout the year on this promontory, and this includes the Nahant Hotel which was but a summer house.

**The Sun Seen at Its Best**

One of the grandest sights on this lovely promontory is the daily dropping of the sun at eventide and thousands view it regularly from the time when the great orb in bloody hue hangs across the hilltops just behind the

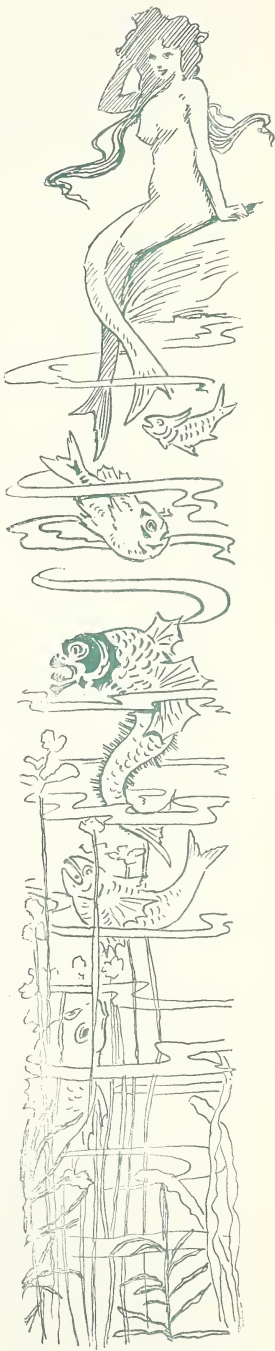


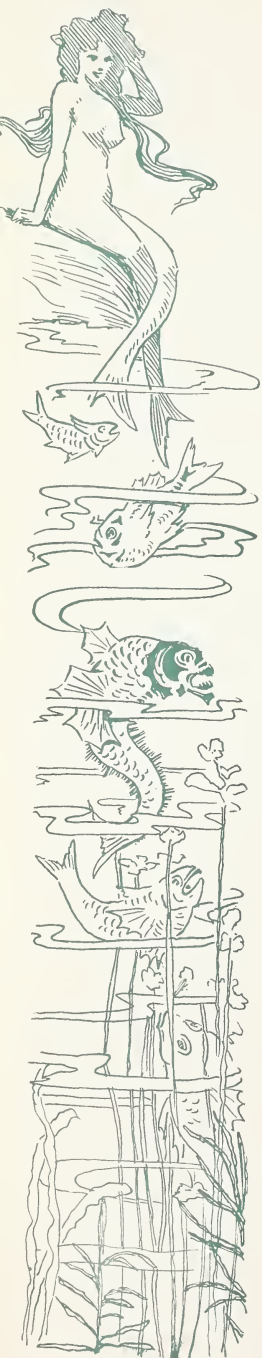
**Relay House**

haze, rising over one of the world's great cities.

There with naked eye this monstrous body may be plainly viewed slowly sinking toward the earth, or seemingly in that direction. Light clouds above are caught with its brilliant rays, and through a rift, or many rifts, great streams of glorious light leap far into the endless heavens; and all the while the scene is changing.

Slowly the sun goes down, but long after this the silvery clouds receive their beauty from the great white orb of day, and soon the





stars come out, a few at first, and then the firmament is all aglow with many thousand more.

When the sun is sinking in the West it leaves a track across the waters, and the ripple of the waves add to all this beauty.

In the morning when it rises over the mighty ocean once again, and seems as if dripping with the water it is leaving, then, in radiant glory, and amid the fragrant morning air, it fairly leaps into the skies until entirely exposed, glorious beyond description.

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### **A Fine Resort**

The Relay House was first opened for the purpose of serving fish dinners in the summer-time, in 1862, by Nathan Moore, who continued this business for the space of twelve years. During the first eleven years his house was but a very small one, and may be seen even now attached to the main hotel on the left, as the grounds are entered from the highway. The year before he died he built a larger house, and in this continued his business as before, up to the time of his death, when his son, John D. Moore, took it and conducted it for seven years.

At the end of this time Mack and Searle leased the property, and this firm conducted the business for two years, then George Bachelder had it for two years longer, when it changed hands again; this time being leased to Mr. Searle, formerly of the firm of Mack & Searle, who had had the managment of the house previously, and under his management it was continued for seven years more; then Eugene H. Brann, the present owner, leased the property in 1892, and continued to carry on the business under his lease up to 1907, when

he acquired title by buying the entire estate left by Nathan Moore, from John D. Moore, the lawful owner.

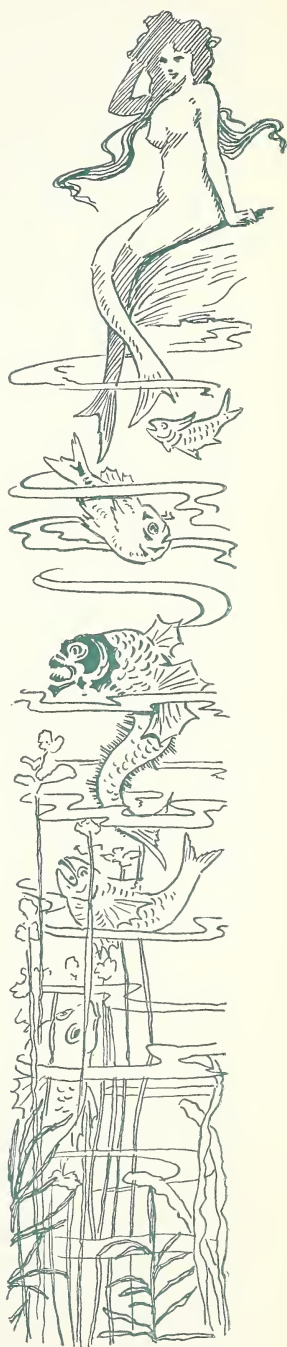
Since that time Mr. Brann has made many and extensive additions, so that the Relay House of today is entirely different from what it ever had been in the past, and rivals even the best summer houses in the country, besides being a hotel that keeps open the year around.

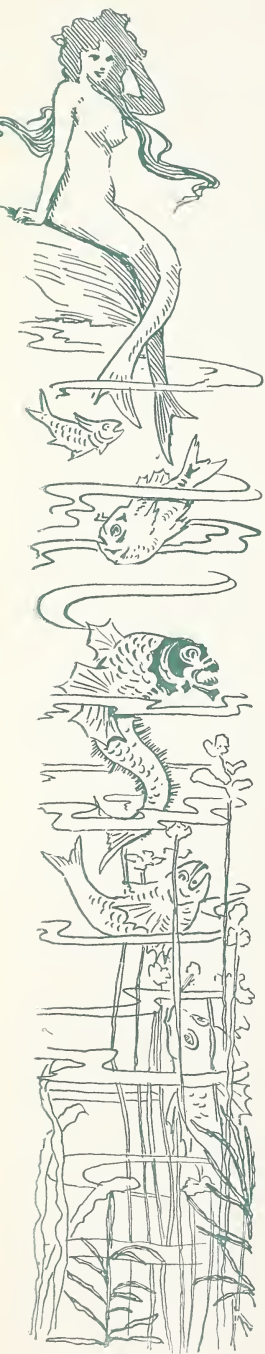
### **Additions Necessary**

So great has been the demands in recent years for summer accommodations, that each winter additions to the house have had to be made, and during the present winter—1910—two stories have been added to what, previous to last season, seemed to be sufficient for years to come, if not, indeed, for all time. Besides this, the winter trade has come to be of such importance, people coming from all quarters for one, at least, of the famous dinners served here; that an elegant fireplace has been constructed in the “Dutch Room” to lend warmth and cheer to those looking for solid comfort, while partaking of the wholesome, the palatable and unexcelled food, served in the latest style, and in the most inviting manner, by waiters trained especially for this house.

### **A Grand Dutch Room**

In the evening when the mellow electric candles are all lighted, and the many colored flames are leaping high in the fireplace, and the winter winds are singing dirges around the corners, there is hardly any place that real comfort reigns so absolute as in this very room, where the skill of the architect, the best of labor and finest of material has been secured to produce effects scarcely equalled anywhere in a room devoted to a like purpose.





The floor is of the hardest pine, polished perfectly, and on this tables rest and chairs of solid oak, all finished in the finest Mission. Palms in abundance, and in one corner of the room a piano, sweet in tone, and very handy oftentimes. And the old tall clock ticks in the corner.

The beams are of ash, finished like the tables, all in Mission; these show the grain and every stick of timber, whether in the ceiling above, on the four sides around; about the fireplace, or in the main doorway, was especially picked by the contractors for its beauty and that the wood might be the very best and show to best advantage.

All about the room are Dutch steins, all shapes and kinds as well as sizes, and Dutch pictures adorn the walls. Rich draperies partly cover up the windows, and hang gracefully above them all around the room. Here and there are little places where a bit of red appears, and all these little things are well intended and bring a something soothing to the mind—calmness, rest, tranquility.

In summer it is just the same without the fireplace glow; but the windows are all wide open for the ocean breezes. More people come and go than in the winter time; yet in each season the “Dutch Room” is always inviting.

This room was constructed by the J. T. Wilson Co., than whom there are no better in the land, and this in itself is a guarantee that it is unusually fine.

Two hundred people can easily banquet here without a particle of inconvenience, but on the contrary, there is ample room for all, beside sufficient space for waiters to properly attend the guests.







SPOUTING HORN



PRACTICE CREW BEFORE THE LIFE SAVING STATION



HALF WAY  
TREE



WILLOWS ALONG THE BEACH



RELAY HOUSE  
YARD



BEACH SCENE



LOOKING WEST FROM BASS POINT

## Accommodations Great

In case it may appear that much has been said concerning this particular room, as though it were the only dining room in the house, mention may properly be made of the fact that the Relay House accommodates five hundred people at a single sitting without any inconvenience to the house or its patrons; but the elegance of the "Dutch Room" is not only worthy of especial mention, for it really should be seen to be properly appreciated.

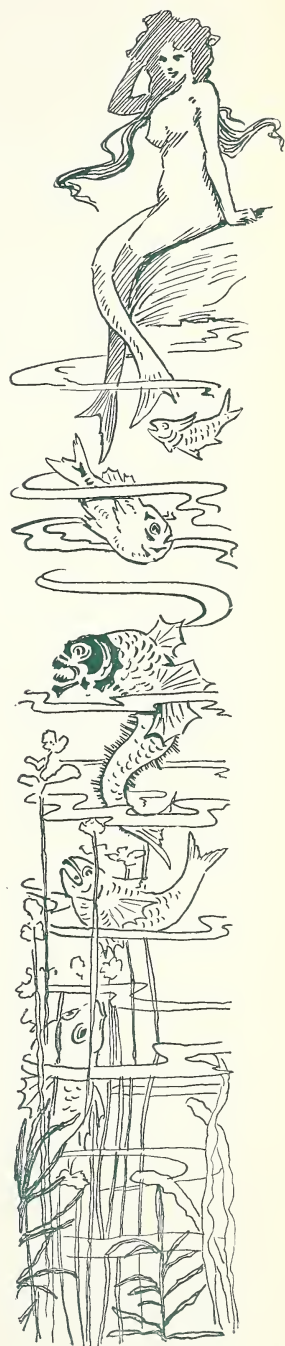
Aside from the public dining rooms, which alone have been considered, there are several private dining rooms for those who desire them, all of which are properly appointed and ready for use at a moment's notice, both in winter as well as summer.

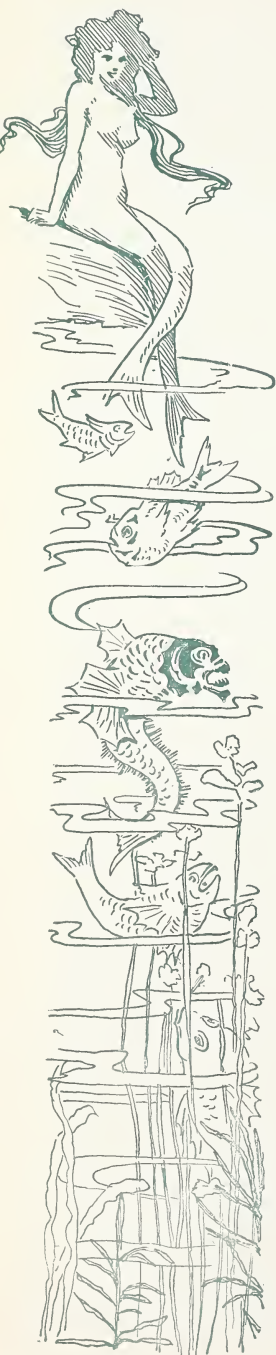
Here it should be noted that the Relay House is steam heated during the winter and fully as comfortable then for auto parties and such like as in the hot season it is for those who swelter in localities almost unbearable, until a happy thought brings them to this promontory for the cooling breezes, and where they may likewise partake with relish and a good appetite of the wholesome fish dinners served in the one great hotel of Nahant, the Relay House.

The spacious porticos about this house cover fully six thousand square feet, and from here can be seen some of the best views of, and from the peninsula, and this is particularly true of the well-known glorious sunsets that are famous in Nahant.

## Splendid Conveniences

Concerning the quantity of land covered by the buildings attached to the Relay House, its lawns and drives, and other beauty spots, the entire amount is full five acres, which ex-





tends out to the sea on the extreme western part of the promontory, as well as the south-west, and at one point there is a steamship landing belonging to the property seven hundred feet in length from the shore. At Bass Point ships from Boston arrive hourly, and besides these others are running on half-hour time between Lynn, Revere and Bass Point.

Then there are the every two-minute trips of the trolleys throughout the day and far into the night with their great loads of human freight; people in the saddle following the bridle path; in carriages driving on the beach if the tide is out, or following the highway otherwise, and besides these there are uncoun- table automobiles hurrying and scurrying all the time, as if there was no end to their num- bers. Indeed, it can be truly said that Bass Point, and the Relay House are busy places in the summer time.

There are many attractions here to divert the mind on a stormy day, or at any time when there is danger of loneliness, for there is the dancing pavilion for those who like Terpsi- chore, the bowling alleys for both sexes, the shooting galleries, the theatre and other very nice attractions right on Relay House grounds, belonging to the property.

A natural rock rising high above the sea with natural steps leading to its summit, on which has been erected a summer house, is most attractive. From its height a splendid survey can be made of the water, distant islands, beaches near and far away, and the great city of Boston and its suburbs.

Facing the water nature so framed this rock that when "Old Glory" came to be painted on it there, it had the appearance of floating as it is seen gently waving in the wind. This is



one of the landmarks of Nahant that never should have been overlooked.

Directly below this rock is the trolley loop, where the cars of the Nahant and Lynn street railway company make their turn for the trip back to Lynn; this section of the line, and for a long distance more, is on the private land belonging to the Relay House. In the center of the loop there is a nice grassy lawn, and many seats which are occupied by visitors as well as those waiting for the cars. One boat line mentioned, and all the trolleys discharge their passengers directly on the grounds belonging to the Relay House.

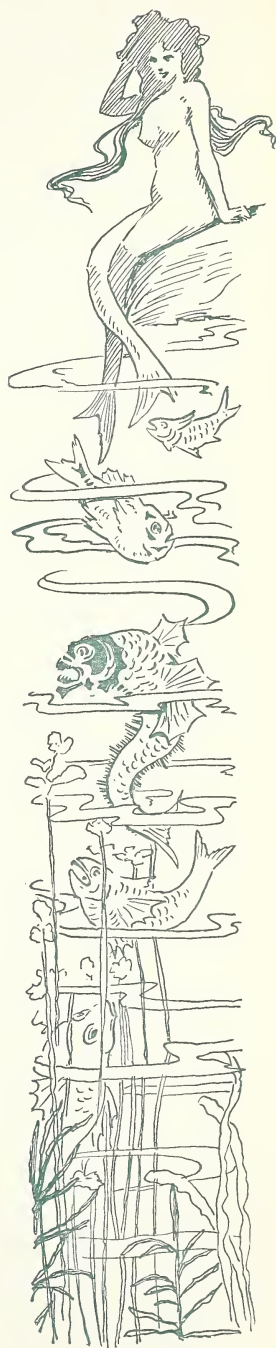
Facing the dancing pavilion, to the left, is a graceful mound all covered with grass and flowers, except that in the center is a flag staff on which the starry banner floats throughout the summer months, and this suggests an interesting story.

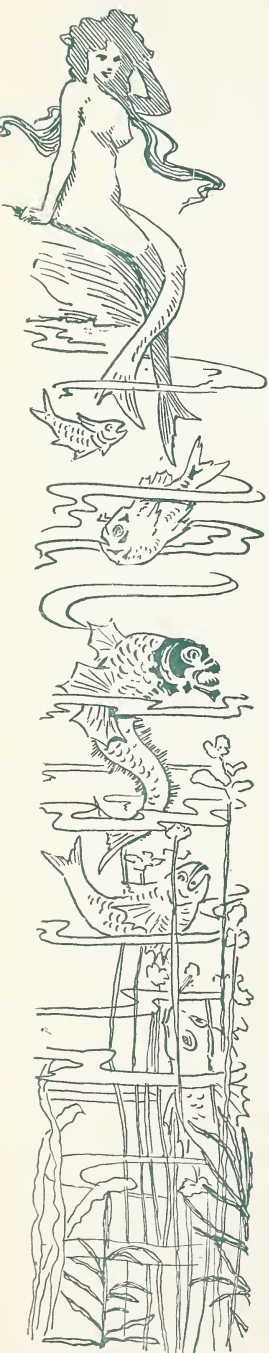
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### Annual Patriotic Celebration

Along early in the pleasant month of June of each year word is passed around that there is to be an "opening night" at the Relay House, and friends of the proprietor and the gracious hostess come from near and far to assist in this ancient custom. The house is filled, piazzas crowded, and thousands are on the lawns; the big garage has no more room for automobiles and many are in the yard around the stables.

Just as the shades of night begin to fall bewitching music fills the air, coming from the ladies' orchestra in a cosy corner on the first piazza; singing follows, and a speech by some leading citizen, who, in his peroration gives a signal which calls for the unfurling of our country's flag, then the multitude relieve them-





selves by cheers, and all the while fireworks illuminate the sky and the grounds surrounding the hotel. After this the banquet is in order, and the best the house affords is freely served to half a thousand guests, while high class singing and the orchestra entertain. When all is over in the house the flag is taken down for the night, slowly taken down and furled, while twenty-one guns thunder the national salute. There is no cheering now; but all is silent through respect; yet rich, red, patriotic blood flows stronger through the veins, and all are better Americans as the result of the patriotic teachings and true American principles instilled at each opening of the summer season at the Relay House, Nahant.

### **Patriotic and Educational**

This may be an advertisement on the part of the hotel, but if it is it is of such a nature that it is well worthy of emulation in all quarters of the land, for here on this rugged rock-bound coast may be found a place where the town meeting is presided over by a statesman; a Senator in the National Congress; and the gathering which makes the local laws, is simple democracy, just as it has been handed down from the fathers who founded the nation, not for fads or fancies, nor experiments, but that the nation might thrive and prosper, and the people thereof live in peace, success and happiness, in accordance with the original designations of those who founded this form of government and broke a yoke of tyranny which had obtained in the older nations, and from which the people seemed powerless to extricate themselves. If so intended it is creditable and does justice to him that instituted it; it must be costly and altogether beyond parsimoniousness, which places the management far in advance of







**Concert Hour**



**Relay House**

others of its kind, that exist, or seem to live only for the profits that come out of the business in which they are engaged. A thing that will never be said of the Relay House under the management of the present proprietor, Eugene H. Brann.

### Sweet Music Always

During the summer months this house has as an attraction each evening and on the holidays, a band of music of high order, and from the bandstand directly in front of the "Dutch Room" it vies with the ladies' string orchestra, which is in attendance all the time, for honors that are hard to gain against them.

Directly in front of the hotel is the waiting station of the Nahant & Lynn Street Railway, which is also the property of the house, and although cars can be taken every two minutes, many come by other means of conveyance over this road, chiefly by the automobile.

In reference to roads it can be truly said that there are none better in the country than those that lead to the driveway across the beach to Nahant, for the State has built boulevards everywhere along the North Shore, and for perfection there is nothing in the world better, nor any material yet developed, which possibly can improve on any of these elegant surfaces, and as "All Roads Lead to Rome," so likewise do the roads in all communities here lead directly to the Relay House, provided a day or an evening is to be spent in winter, while the wild waves dash upon the beach, or in summer when the cooling ocean breezes blow.

A trip to Nahant resuscitates, invigorates, and rests the mind and body; a trip abroad or to many other summer places fags, tires and overpowers the seeker after health, sending him home after his vacation far worse off than when he first thought to take his rest.

